

Academic Philosophies/Policies for Pacific Lutheran High School 2010-2011

(AIP) Academic Intervention Program – Students with a failing grade in any class or a cumulative grade point average below a 2.0 (a “C” average) are placed in Pacific Lutheran’s Academic Intervention Program. This intervention program has three different tiers ranging from teacher/parent conferences to probationary status at Pacific Lutheran High School. Ms. Flett is in charge of the school’s AIP Program.

Bloom’s Taxonomy – Teachers have been trained to write lesson objectives and ask students questions using a widely accepted taxonomy (organization of ideas) developed by educational psychologist Benjamin Bloom. In a nutshell, Dr. Bloom posited and formalized the idea that there are multiple levels of understanding ranging from simple knowledge (the ability to remember learned information) to deeper levels of understanding including synthesis and analysis of information.

California A-G Course List – Pacific Lutheran High School courses have been reviewed and approved by the University of California system’s high school articulation unit. School courses have been evaluated and approved after consideration of course content, class outline, textbook/materials, assessment strategies, and other academically-oriented categories.

Curriculum – All material a teacher provides and uses with students in the learning process. Pacific Lutheran High School uses state-approved and/or educationally-relevant books, handouts, workbooks, dvd’s, etc. which are consistent with the school’s Christian worldview.

Honor Roll – Students who receive between a 3.5-4.0 g.p.a. are honored with a certificate and a chapel ceremony.

Merit Roll – Students who receive between a 3.1-3.49 g.p.a. are honored with a certificate and a chapel ceremony.

National Honor Society – Pacific Lutheran High School sophomores, juniors, or seniors who have expressed excellence in the four qualifying pillars: (1) Academics (2) Service (3) Leadership and (4) Character are eligible to be members of the National Honor Society. This achievement is advantageous in the college admission process, scholarships, student aid, and is a significant achievement for all who qualify. Mr. Gale McKim is in charge of the National Honor Society.

Online Grades – Pacific Lutheran has contracted with Gradelink (www.gradelink.com) to provide state of the art access to student performance. PLHS parents and students are given a unique log-on code which allows access to student transcripts, up-to-date student performance in classes, access to teacher notes, teacher contact information and other important information. Student grades are updated at least once a week by teachers. Parents have the ability to request “alerts” when students’ grades fall below certain pre-determined levels.

WASC Accreditation – The Western Association of Schools and Colleges is an accrediting agency for elementary and high schools which reviews a school’s operations from top to bottom and gives approval (accreditation) to the school plan in place. Pacific Lutheran’s curriculum, teacher qualifications, school leadership, educational objectives, etc. have been reviewed by WASC and been approved for the maximum accreditation in the school’s first visit. Pacific Lutheran High School will be having another WASC accreditation visit in Spring 2010 to monitor/check school progress towards its academic goals.

White Board Policy – Each day of school PLHS teachers (often on the whiteboard) will: (1) State what students will be learning that day in class; (2) State what activity(activities) will occur to teach or reinforce the learning objective; (3) Tell students how they will be assessed(graded) for the activity.

ZAP (Zero’s Aren’t Permitted) – Pacific Lutheran High School has a mandatory homework policy called ZAP. In essence, this requires students to complete homework and turn it in on time each day. Students who do not complete homework assignments at an acceptable level (determined by teachers in their own classrooms) students attend study hall after school the same day to complete the work. Students earning multiple ZAP slips will be shifted to our Academic Intervention Program (AIP)